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FROM AF/P

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION PARA 2 LINE 6)

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: OPRC, SF  
SUBJECT: SUMMARY TRANSCRIPT OF 2/25 ABC NEWS ON S. AFRICA

REF: FRASURE/WILLS TELECON 2/26

FOLLOWING IS PA-PREPARED SUMMARY TRANSCRIPT OF LAST NIGHT'S  
"SOUTH AFRICA CONNECTION" REPORT ON ABC'S WORLD NEWS  
TONIGHT.

CONTRA AID/SOUTH AFRICA CONNECTION: ABC NEWS HAS LEARNED  
THAT, FOR OVER THREE YEARS, U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND  
THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER TO  
PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE CONTRAS. THE OPERATION  
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HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A "VEST POCKET" OPERATION RUN BY CIA  
DIRECTOR WILLIAM CASEY HIMSELF OUTSIDE OF ALL NORMAL

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CHANNELS. THE MEETING OCCURRED DURING A PERIOD OF INTENSE CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE OVER ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THE CONTRAS. THE FIRST DIRECT CONTACT: STATE DEPARTMENT AND INTELLIGENCE SOURCES TELL ABC THAT THE CIA'S THEN-LATIN AMERICA DIVISION CHIEF DUANE CLARRIDGE TRAVELLED SECRETLY TO SOUTH AFRICA TO SOLICIT AID FOR THE CONTRAS -- A TRIP THE CIA DENIES. AT THE TIME CLARRIDGE REPORTED DIRECTLY TO CASEY AND UAS THE AGENCY'S POINT MAN FOR THE CONTRAS.

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, SAFAIR FREIGHTERS, A SOUTH AFRICAN CARGO COMPANY, OPENED AN OFFICE IN THE U.S. U.S. OFFICIALS SAY SAFAIR IS INVOLVED IN COVERT OPERATIONS FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. ON THE SAME DAY IT INCORPORATED, SAFAIR SIGNED A LEASE WITH SOUTHERN AIR TRANSPORT, KNOWN FOR ITS PAST RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE CIA. SAFAIR PROVIDED PLANES TO SOUTHERN AIR THAT WERE USED TO FLY WEAPONS TO THE CONTRAS.

IN 1984, CASEY UNDERTOOK A SECRET MISSION TO THE FRENCH RIVIERA, WHERE HE MET WITH SAUDI ARABIA'S KING FAHD AND SOUGHT TO PERSUADE FAHD TO PROVIDE AID FOR THE CONTRAS, FOR THE REBELS IN ANGOLA, AND HE URGED FAHD TO PROVIDE OI- TO SOUTH AFRICA. TWO YEARS LATER, IN MARCH, CASEY MADE ANOTHER SECRET VISIT, THIS TIME TO SOUTH AFRICA. SOURCES TELL ABC THAT DURING THAT PERIOD, A DEAL WAS BEING DISCUSSED IN HIGH-LEVEL POLICY SESSIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND IN WASHINGTON FOR SOUTH AFRICAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CONTRAS. ABC NEUS HAS LEARNED THAT, ONE MONTH LATER, RETIRED AIR FORCE GENERAL RICHARD SECORD, HIS DEPUTY RICHARD GADD (SP?), AND A MAN DESCRIBED BY OTHERS PRESENT AS LT. COL. UNCLASSIFIED

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OLIVER NORTH MET WITH SOUTHERN AIR TRANSPORT PILOTS IN A SAFEHOUSE IN SAN SALVADOR. THERE THEY WERE TOLD THAT THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS WOULD FLY WEAPONS INTO NICARAGUA. AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY THAT SOME OF THOSE NATIONALS WERE SOUTH AFRICANS. (REPORTED BY KAREN BURNES, WASHINGTON). WHITEHEAD

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